

Broughty Ferry Community Council

Minute of Ordinary Meeting held in Broughty Ferry Library on Tuesday 3rd June 2025.

Meeting opened at 7.00pm

1. Community Councillors Present

Doreen Phillips (Chair), Neil Cooney (Vice-Chair), James Doig (Secretary) John Watson (Planning), Lorna Murray (Licensing), Fiona Potton, David Easson, Norma McGovern, Isobel McLean, Charlie Delaney, Kenny Matheson, Molly Laidlaw, George Laidlaw.

In Attendance

Christine Rea

Ex-Officio

Bailie Derek Scott

Apologies

Tara Javed, Chris Johnson

Members of the Public Present

Four members of the public were in attendance.

2. Minute of Previous Meeting (6th May 2025)

The draft minute (previously distributed) was agreed as a true minute, proposed by Kenny Matheson seconded by Norma McGovern and agreed by the members present.

3. Matters Arising

Westfield Road and Broughty Ferry Traffic Issues;

DCC are awaiting a decision from Network Rail regarding electrification of the east coast line through Broughty Ferry which will have an impact on traffic issues, they will not make a decision until that is decided.

Broughty Ferry Castle & its Future;

Update from Planning Secretary; A steering group has now been established with presently six members, who are in the process of drafting the constitution which requires six trustees to establish charity status. Anyone interested in becoming a 'Trustee,' contact John Watson. Events have been organised to raise funds, such as at Broughty Ferry Gala day with further events on 19th July and 2nd August. Broughty Traders and Rotary have given donations to provide publicity material. Posters will be displayed in Ferry shop windows.

New school crossing facility in Forthill Road.

Crossing complete and in operation.

As there is only one toilet in the library, it should not be listed as a public toilet. Dundee City Council are requested as to the clarification with regard to toilet provision in Broughty Ferry. The local development plan includes toilet provision. (See bailie Scott's report regarding upgrade of public toilets)

Castle Green play-ship repaired by the installation company at a reduced cost following malicious damage.

Following the AGM where it was noted we had not received an Account for the Web site. Chris Johnson has contacted Lesley Duncan regarding an invoice for the account. She will try to get an invoice for web hosting and domain renewal. Chris still attempting to contact Anna Robb regarding the Facebook page.

4. Chairs Report

Broughty Castle update presented by John Watson and hopefully will be moving forward. Community Fridge – internal alterations in progress, domestic flooring (lino) and fridge / freezer donated by Gillies and Hosie's.

We have a stall at Castle Green Gala day, any tombola items gratefully received.

Opening times for the Community Fridge Tuesday & Thursday 11.00am – 2.00pm.

Planning secretary intimated, there was no further information at present regarding the delisting of the building as it was more complicated than first thought.

5. Matters raised by Members of the Public (Previously Intimated)

None

6. Police Report

A visit was carried out with primary 1 pupils at Barnhill primary to complete an input on 'People who help us'

Longhaugh Community Policing Team in partnership with Scottish Fire and Rescue completed several visits to P6/7 pupils of Barnhill, Forthill and Eastern Primary and also Grove Academy and Craigie High S1 pupils. This was part of a larger piece of work to tackle secondary fires being set throughout the locality. The inputs were to highlight the impact this can have on the community and the dangers. Along with these talks there has been partnership working with the local Community Wardens and DCC ASB Team with increased patrols and visibility in high impact areas. Prioritising identification of person involved and ensuring they are dealt with also.

Longhaugh Community Policing Team again assisted with Eastern Primary School 'Cycle Bus Scheme' teaming up with Dundee and Angus Cycle hub volunteers to assist with the school children cycling to school. These involved volunteers waiting at prearranged 'bus stops' where the children could meet Police/Volunteers and be supported in their bike ride to school.

Due to a complaint being received regarding vehicles going onto Gillies Park grass area, Dundee City Council Parks Department has been contacted to highlight this issue to ensure padlock is kept on the small gate leading onto the grass area to prevent further issues.

LCPT are aware that the good weather and longer summer nights often encourages certain elements to gather around Castle Green and conduct themselves in an anti-social manner.

This area does already form part of our daily patrol matrix, but we must allocate our resources carefully, based on risk assessment, crime data and experiential learning. However, there has been officers tasked to carry out high visibility foot patrols in this area and we will continue to monitor and task appropriately as required.

PC Fotheringham has recently completed her pedal cycle course to enable high-visibility cycle patrols in the Broughty Ferry area. We are awaiting new e-bikes being obtained through Police Capital Budget and hope to have these in place to carry out patrols over the summer period which will assist in covering a wider area more efficiently and hopefully assist in reducing youths causing annoyance with the heavy footfall the summer weather brings to Broughty Ferry.

Partnership work also continues along with the LCPT regarding plans for diversionary projects over the summer months. Police Scotland will continue to support where possible these projects which will likely be published by our partner agencies as they are confirmed.

Officers have also carried out speed compliance and vehicle checks on A92/Balgillo Road throughout the month whereby both warnings and tickets were issued to motorists not complying. Further checks/stops at other roads in the area will be completed where possible.

7. Secretary's Report (Previously Distributed)

Correspondence

- 13/05 Info from DCC; Although Advertising of Community Council Elections were ceased due to cost, Christine intimated there would be an advertisement for this year's elections.
- 15/05 Minute of Dundee Communities Action Group (DCAG) held on 10th April 2025. Next meeting, Thursday 12th June 2025 in Arthursstone Library. As Tara Javed is unable to attend the meeting, it was requested another member attend, Norma McGovern volunteered. The secretary will forward the minute of the group to members.
- 18/05 Email received regarding study on Brownfield sites and the environment.
- 19/05 Chris Johnston attempting to update login credentials for the BFCC Facebook page.
- 21/05 From DCC; LCPP Application for CRF funding from Ferry United following the asset transfer of the former Orchar Park Bowling green & pavilion.
- 23/05 Agenda received for next (DCAG) meeting, to be held in Arthursstone library on 12th June, 6.30pm – 7.30pm.
- 23/05 New Funding available (Scottish Government's Cashback for Communities programme). Open to applications from Thursday 12th June 2025.
- 26/05 From DCC; Info/plan, regarding Bus Bay in Brook Street. There was some discussion regarding the order from DCC, with all stating it was in the wrong location. The planning secretary to notify DCC of BFCC objection regarding the location.
- 27/05 Report on Queen Street & Shiell Street Community Gardens, forwarded to members for information, (see item 12).
- 27/05 Email from Joyce McIntosh (Yeaaba) regarding anti-social behaviour & vandalism.
- 27/05 Email from Cllr Duncan regarding above email from Joyce McKintosh.
- 29/05 From DCC; Variation of waiting restrictions (Esplanade, Panmure Street, Brook Street, Harley Street, Hill Street).

Christine Rea intimated BFCC should highlight to Broughty Ferry residents via notices, that Community Council Elections are due to take place in October 2025, where existing BFCC members and residents of Broughty Ferry, can offer themselves as candidates. Secretary has displayed notices in the library and Queen Street car park notice board.

8. Planning Report 1st – 30th May 2025 (Previously Distributed)

Of the 8 planning and 8 tree applications validated and examined during the above period, none required attention.

9. Licensing Report.

No applications had been received by the Licence secretary during this period.

10. Public Relations Report

Nothing to report

11. LCPP Report

Meeting held on 8/5/25 at 3.00pm, in Barnhill St Margarets church hall.

New concept for LCPP meetings, introduced by Ross Mackenzie (Senior Manager Economic Development). Standard Agenda with standing items (The Ferry Quarterly Briefing, Locality Officer Update, AOB). Action notes; no minute.

Broughty Ferry Parish Church – Monthly magazine update.

Community Planning Partner presentation – Fiona Gilmore.

Understanding our Priorities: What matters to you – Ross Mackenzie.

The Ferry LCPP: Quarterly Update information, Dundee Volunteer & Voluntary Action, The Ferry Fridge update, Dundee Gift Card, Development (sustainable Transport & roads, Employability Services, Love Dundee Local Vouchers), DCC Environment Service, Giving Back.

Next meeting, Thursday 14th August 2025 at 3.00pm (location to be decided).

Christine was asked to feedback BFCC's concern that changes were made without consultation with the community, in particular the time of meetings, moving from evening to daytime which was less convenient for some members of the community.

12. Matters Raised by Community Councillors (Previously Intimated)

George Laidlaw; Queen Street/Shiell Street community gardens, highlight of points from previously distributed report. Looking for funding and additional volunteers. Watering of the garden has always been a problem (no water supply in locality), hopefully this will be resolved with the opening of the Community Fridge which will have an external tap.

Chair Doreen, reminded community councillors that reports for BFCC meetings are required to be sent in advance of the meeting to the secretary.

13. Contributions from Elected Members

Bailie Derek Scott's Report;

Toilets; Broughty Ferry public toilets are an issue that is frequently raised at community council meetings. I have been pursuing this for some time with the council. I am therefore pleased to advise that there is a tender item going to a council committee on 9th June for improvement to public toilets, including those at Windmill Car Park and Castle Green.

New sanitary ware will be installed and there will be other upgrades. Work won't commence until after the school holidays to avoid impacting on the peak summer season.

I have asked for some more detail on the proposed works and if I get this before Tuesday's meeting I will share it with you. I am also waiting for information on the other toilet issues I was asked to look at i.e. opening hours and the possibility of a comfort scheme that provides free access to public toilets through partnerships with local businesses like hotels, pubs, and coffee shops similar to one operated by Perth and Kinross Council. Again, I will update the meeting on Tuesday if the responses come through by then.

Railway station; I contacted Scotrail again about the possibility of providing a ticket machine at Broughty Ferry Railway Station, An extract from its response to me is copied below. I will continue to periodically raise the issue with them.

'We fully appreciate that the absence of a ticket machine at the station can be a significant inconvenience for both regular commuters and occasional travellers. Making ticket purchasing as accessible and straightforward as possible is a priority for us, and we understand how important this can be.

Your comments have been logged for the attention of the appropriate department, and Scotrail will be reviewing all customer feedback on a regular basis to allow us to identify any areas where there is a clear need for improvement.'

Resurfacing The Esplanade; I was asked by residents if the speed humps are to be reinstalled on the Esplanade during the resurfacing works. The main concern is the stretch between Brook Street and Panmure Street. The senior engineer responsible for the project advised me that there will be a new speed table installed at the junction of Brook Street and The Esplanade (east side) currently where there is an existing crossing point. This crossing point will remain. Three new concrete speed ramps will be installed halfway between Brook Street and Panmure Street.

Level crossing; On Thursday 5th June, as part of International Level Crossing Awareness Day and following on from the success of last year's event, Network Rail will be at Gray Street engaging with the public about the correct use of the crossing to try and further reduce the number of incidents.

Anti-social behaviour; I have had a lot of contact in recent weeks from residents about anti-social/youth behaviour at the Castle Green area. Below is an extract from an email I received from the locality police inspector.

'Sadly, we are aware that the good weather and longer summer nights often encourages certain elements to gather around Castle Green and conduct themselves in an anti-social manner.

This area does already form part of our daily patrol matrix as we have to allocate our resources carefully, based on risk assessment, crime data and experiential learning. Nonetheless, I have already tasked officers to carry out high visibility foot patrols in this area over the next few nights, and we will continue to monitor.'

And from the community warden manager;
Broughty Ferry is already on the Community Safety Warden patrols, and we will look to provide additional coverage when possible.

Mark Spence, who is the Senior Community Safety Warden for this area, is linking with the Police Community Team and DCC Communities team and will continue this throughout the summer. A Community meeting is also due to sit soon, which Mark will attend to feed in any intelligence and report back.

The ASB team completed a round of school inputs in the area in partnership with Police and Fire colleagues (Police lead), specifically around fire-related issues, but also covering other ASB-related problems.'

Community Wardens will continue to share any intelligence on anyone causing issues with the ASB team so steps can be taken to prevent any continuance of this behaviour.'

And from the cleansing team about the rubbish and debris left behind;
'Currently, attendants visit the castle and surrounding area first thing in the morning to clear any debris from the previous evening. Additionally, we have placed extra bins in the Windmill car park to help manage excess waste from beach visitors. We actively monitor the area and adjust our operation to ensure attendants are present and bins are serviced more frequently, particularly during this lovely weather.'

Seagulls; Lastly, I thought I would mention seagulls as in recent weeks I have had a lot of contact from residents who have had seagulls nesting on their roofs or have been swooped on. Gulls, like all other birds, are protected and a licence is required from NatureScot for lethal control. This is always the last resort. There needs to be a clear public health and safety issue and also evidence that all other control measures have been unsuccessful before a licence can be issued.

Bailie Scott highlighted update and points from his above report.

Cllr Craig Duncan's Report;

Giant Hogweed; Every year I report instances of Giant Hogweed reported to me by residents or noticed by myself and recently I toured with the responsible officer to point out potentially new sites of this invasive species, the sap of which can produce extremely painful blisters on human skin when interacting with sunlight.

The council maintain details of historical hot spots but welcome reports of new locations as these will be added to treatment rosters.

Navarre Street resurfaced; Delighted that Navarre Street has been resurfaced, I initially excluded from the very limited scope of planned works for this financial year, I raised this with the manager of the Roads Maintenance Partnership and the Head of Roads and Sustainable Transportation at the council and was assured that these much needed works would be provided under a separate budget for Structural inlay works.

The Roads Maintenance program is in my view underfunded and I can think of many other locations in need of work, which I shall keep pressing for.

Dropped Kerbs; I recently toured central Broughty Ferry in the company of a wheelchair user who had come to grief toppling out of his wheelchair and we agreed that several of the older dropped kerbs are simply not suitable for the many independent users of powered wheelchairs which afford excellent independence but struggle to negotiate the older dropped kerbs and I have been in touch with officers to urge that a proper and defined scheme of identifying such locations and a realistic timeframe for improvements be solidified as a worth while goal to work towards and I will provide a further update.

Dundee & Angus College; Many residents have contacted me expressing extreme disquiet over the news that D&A management are considering restricting or removing public access to the Swimming Pool and Gym facilities at Gardyne Road Campus as well as radically changing access to groups who might access the excellent theatre there. Myself and my party group colleagues on Dundee City Council have been in touch with college management urging them to reconsider but if absolutely necessary to work with Leisure and Culture Dundee (whom I have also been in touch with) to ensure that existing users of the college swimming pool, particularly clubs are not left homeless. Leisure & Culture Dundee have been in touch with me to say that they would be glad to try and work with and accommodate potentially affected swimming clubs and I will put these clubs in touch with an appropriate officer.

Windmill car park & Castle Green Toilets Upgrades & Esplanade works; An item on the agenda for committee on 9 June indicates some minor but nevertheless welcome upgrades to these facilities but I will continue to reiterate my previous requests for a substantial improvement of these facilities in arguably the busiest locations in Broughty Ferry. The off peak season timing of these works is to be commended and contrasts favourably with the on going Esplanade Road upgrades during arguably the most inconvenient period in the year for Broughty Ferry and I and for example the Broughty Ferry Traders Association asked if these otherwise welcome works cannot be carried out in a less disruptive manner.

Balmossie Fire Station; In recent weeks I have been proactively in the media making plain that I am absolutely, foursquare opposed to SNY downgrade, let alone closure of the SFRS presence at Balmossie. I have also registered my objection with the area commander of the SFRS and have been in frequent communication with “fire fighters” past and present. At the time of writing, I have just again written to the Area Commander to seek clarity. Personally, I shall do whatever I can to resist anything other than preservation of the status quo or ideally an upgrade.

Anti-Social Behaviour; Sadly, recent good weather has seen a recurrence of poor behaviour at the usual hot spots, particularly around the castle and harbour, resulting in yet more senseless and costly vandalism of the sort highlighted by Joyce MacIntosh. Every year I ask for increased police and council Community Safety Warden patrols and there has certainly been a very visible police presence in Broughty Ferry which I have personally witnessed in recent weeks but unfortunately vandalism etc still happens prompting calls for the installation of CCTV, something I have raised with the council and police almost every year but is declined on the grounds of insufficient resources. A week or so ago I spoke with the Executive Director of Neighbourhood Services about the possibility of CCTV on or near the Harbour but under he confirmed he has no budget to enable this. Nevertheless, I think that some sort of combined approach from various concerned people and organisations highlighting the problem and calling for CCTV is a positive strategy which might yield results.

Dawson Park Heras Type Fencing; At the request of a resident, I asked the council to uplift a significant amount of this fencing which had been left in the sunken garden for months for no apparent purpose and I am pleased to say it has now been removed.

Advertising Banners; I continue to raise examples of unauthorised advertising banners at numerous locations at the request of residents who consider that if left in place something of an unsightly free for all will ensue and some of these banners obscure traffic sight lines with obvious safety implications.

14. AOCB

Question regarding the sand martins area which were located in the Esplanade, is there a plan for reintroduction?. Their eggs were eaten by stoats and they will therefore not return for some years.

David Easson intimated account had not yet been transferred to Tara Javed. BOS are now charging a monthly fee of £4.25 on the account. Virgin Money offer a free account depending upon number of transactions. It was agreed we change to Virgin Money.

Date of next meeting;

The next Ordinary Meeting will be held on Tuesday 1st July 2025 at 7.00pm in Broughty Ferry Library.